



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Commission's intention to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the African Continental Free Trade Area with the African Union

Delegations will find attached a note, as prepared by the Commission services.



Brussels, 15 December 2022

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE AFRICA WORKING PARTY (COAFR)

SUBJECT: Commission's intention to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the African Continental Free Trade Area with the African Union

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This note is to inform the Council of the Commission's intention to negotiate and sign, on behalf of the EU, a legally non-binding agreement with the African Union, represented by the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

CONTEXT

The renewed Africa-EU partnership, as outlined in the declaration "A joint vision for 2030" adopted at the sixth EU-AU Summit in 2022, at which the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union and the European Union committed to promote a prosperous and sustainable Africa and Europe, amongst others by boosting regional and continental economic integration, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Area, and working gradually towards the progressive and mutually beneficial approximation of their respective continental markets.

OBJECTIVES

Strengthen the partnership between the EU and EU to support the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, in order to boost the regional and continental economic integration. In view of that aim, the EU and the AU jointly decided to develop a cooperation in defining:

- i) Joint strategic priorities, knowledge sharing, innovative approaches to address common problems in the area of trade and economic integration;
- ii) The coordination of the implementation of the AfCFTA;
- iii) The implementation of the AfCFTA by State Parties and the alignment between the Regional Economic Communities and the AfCFTA Secretariat's respective agendas.
- iv) The implications and challenges faced by stakeholders around the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.
- v) Experience-sharing in trade and trade related matters, in view to foster new and increase co-operation opportunities in priority topics.